



HEALTH AND BIOSCIENCE

ROBOTIC AID FOR VICTIMS OF STROKE

Over a quarter of a million people in the UK are living with long-term disability as a result of a stroke, with huge physical, emotional and economic costs. Researchers in our School of Health and Bioscience are now on the verge of a major breakthrough that could dramatically increase recovery rates from stroke and thus significantly reduce the care needs of patients.

Working with partners at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Gottingen University, and UCL's Institute of Neurology, a UEL team led by Duncan Turner, Professor of Restorative Neuroscience and Rehabilitation, is conducting clinical research trials of the Interactive Motion Technologies Rehabilitation Robot, the first of its kind in the UK. The team have also developed a 'Robot-Gym', employing haptic devices and virtual reality environments for use in home and community care settings.

The results have attracted worldwide interest, and Professor Turner has been involved in producing a national policy report that seeks to build on the Wellcome Trust funded conference Restorative Neuroscience in Stroke Rehabilitation, held at Windsor Castle in September. ■

Our School of Health and Bioscience offers a wide range of professional health, biomedical science and sports science programmes and has strong links with the NHS. Our new Centre for Clinical Education in Physiotherapy, Podiatry, Complementary Medicine and Sports Science will be officially opened by HRH the Duchess of Cornwall in January 2008.

Our Institute of Health and Human Development was awarded £1.4m by the Greater London Authority and over £700K by the Wellcome Trust to carry out the community development work and evaluation for the Well London partnership, which aims to deliver integrated health improvement programmes in London's most deprived neighbourhoods. Building on its growing reputation in the field of community engagement and evaluation, the Institute is

working with agencies including Redbridge PCT and the Tower Hamlets Health Trainers Programme, as well as leading the major 'Business Mentality' initiative in workplace mental health promotion.

In August, Julie Baldry Currens was awarded a National Teaching Fellowship by the Higher Education Academy for pioneering the design and development of an accredited Situated Learning Programme in Physiotherapy, one of the first in the UK.

UEL is forging partnerships with leading universities in the UK and worldwide to develop sports infrastructure and support in the run-up to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and in November hosted Health and Wellbeing: The Legacy Challenge, a conference looking at potential health impacts of the Games.



◀ Research in forensic toxicology and herbal medicine

▼ Podiatry practice in our new Centre for Clinical Education

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